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years 1792, '96, '98 and '99. The association "struck" for increases and against decreases of wages, and, later, became mixed up with conspiracy laws in a way that would fill any modern, self-respecting trade union with envy. It might also be said, as another instance, that the Philadelphia Typographical Society, whose descendent lives to-day, was founded in 1802, and sent \$83 to help the New York printers through a yellow-fever epidemic in 1803. Other mistakes occur, as for example, when the author says, ". . . where special industries are localized, men of other allied trades (*i. e.*, other than the building and printing trades) are numerous enough to form similar organizations, but nowhere are there such unions of the textile trades, or of the iron trades, or the boot and shoe trades." And yet there is in existence a "Metal Trades Council," of New York, which sent a telegram of instruction on ship-subsidy resolutions to its representative at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor. And there is a Philadelphia "Textile Association," which sends a lobby to the state legislature. Again, it is not a fact that the Cleveland, O., central body is the only one in the United States with a paid "business agent."

The monograph has a good table of contents, but unfortunately no index. As a book of information, it will supply food for the trade unionist and for the lay thinker. It contains forcible and convincing statements in regard to waste of time in the unions, use of labor organizations by politicians, effect of public opinion, use of blackmail, variations in the practices of different cities, the labor press, collective bargaining and legislation. But when the much-mooted question of political action is discussed, the author, skillful as he may be, treads on slippery ground, and his work shows it. At times also his statements have an *ex cathedra* tone. "There is but one side, until the other is heard."

HENRY JOHN NELSON.

*Philadelphia.*

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*Elementary Principles of Economics.* By CHARLES H. CHASE. Pp. xvi, 405. Price, \$1.25. Chicago: Chas. H. Kerr & Co., 1899.

Judge Chase has dedicated his *Elementary Economics* to the youth of the United States of America. It should have been dedicated to the economists. The volume is one which will be of value to teachers of political economy, but it is peculiarly unfitted in many respects to serve as an elementary text-book or as an introduction to the subject for the general reader.

It would be difficult to find a better exercise for an advanced student than the close perusal of this book to determine which of its new terms, formulæ, and definitions are worthy of serious consideration and possibly even of immediate adoption. Such suggested innovations are by no means rare. Objective elusion, Ops potentia, Crescive Wealth, and Despoliatory Increments of Debt, yield their meaning readily enough. Rather more classical learning is needed to grasp the signification of Potential capital, Tellurian capital, Taxonomic Taxation, and Fruendal—used as a synonym for fruentive wealth, or wealth devoted directly to the satisfaction of desires. It is by no means certain that we do not need just these terms and twenty more equally technical and precise. But they cannot gain currency by the aid of pupils who are beginning their economic studies.

There are other reasons why this book will appeal rather to advanced students. One of them is that the mathematical formulæ are somewhat involved. This, for example, is one of the simplest illustrating the varying conditions of utility production in two countries between which trade is unrestricted by other than natural causes:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\frac{5}{8} S) 2 (a) 2 (b) 2 (c) 2 (d) \\ (\frac{2}{5} T) \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} 8 l \\ 2 (e) 2 (f) 4 l + (a + b + c + d + e + f) t \end{array}$$

This, perhaps, is not very important, since it is announced that the general reader is to omit the problems, and the unprepared youth may of course do likewise.

Leaving negative considerations, there is a positive reason for advising those who are familiar with standard economic literature, and especially those who are engaged in the teaching of the subject, to examine this little book. The author is familiar with legislative procedure, with the judicial interpretation of statutes, and also with those currents of public opinion and those deep-seated popular convictions upon which social and political reforms are based. In the portions of the book which deal with economic theory he is daring in innovation, careless of the established use of terms, almost recklessly iconoclastic. In fact, the author frankly hopes that this work "will prove to be the beginning of a science of political economy."

But in the later chapters which discuss such practical questions as taxation, money, and railroad management and especially in the final division entitled Applied Economics, the instinctive conservatism of the bench tempers the author's obviously radical sympathies, although he remains fortunately both critical and outspoken.

The book is evidently the sincere and carefully considered attempt of a man who holds decided views on social questions to formulate a science of economics that, while not in conflict with those views, shall

nevertheless be rigidly precise in the mathematical sense. Its interest lies, however, in the light which it throws on the social questions rather than in its contribution to pure science. And this is by no means a disparaging criticism of any economic treatise. The book shows familiarity with economic literature, but it is not so planned or written as to be of any value as an introduction either to the standard works with which every student must become familiar, or to the current periodical discussions in which the general reader is to be interested.

EDWARD T. DEVINE.

*New York City.*

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*The Government of Municipalities.* By DORMAN B. EATON.. Pp. x, 498, 14, 8vo. New York: For Columbia University Press, by the Macmillan Co., 1899.

It is with unusual interest and keen anticipation that one takes up this work by Mr. Eaton. So long, so actively and so prominently has he been connected with city affairs, that whatever he says deserves careful thought.

Following the example of his many predecessors, Mr. Eaton deals only with the defects of our municipal systems and the remedies proposed, treating *causes* of inefficiency only so far as it is necessary to assist in working out a solution. The remedies offered are: abolition of the party system, nomination by petition *only*, "free voting" (elections by general ticket with cumulative voting), civil service reform, the council system as against centralization of power in the mayor, and state administrative control as against legislative interference in local affairs.

The chapters dealing with the relation of the party system to municipal administration are probably the most unsatisfactory. Mr. Eaton seems to confuse parties in the abstract with parties in the concrete. So impressed is he with the bad effects of intermingling state and national politics with local questions, that he condemns, apparently, the whole party system. For instance, he says (p. 11):

"Few things are more indisputable, among elementary facts of government than this, that the party system and a true municipal system are repugnant and irreconcilable."

This idea is radically erroneous. The party system is based upon the fundamental principle that results—good or bad—can be more easily attained by concerted action. As long as this principle remains true—probably forever—some sort of party system will exist. Thus, the important problem is whether there shall be municipal parties